

AS60

From: Jim Raeburn  
Sent: 17 November 2011 16:15:10  
To: First Minister  
Cc: Scottish Ministers  
Subject: Public Information Notices

Dear First Minister,

The Society's representatives greatly appreciated the time you made available for our meeting on 10 November to discuss issues of concern to the Scottish newspaper industry.

We explained that these are difficult times for the industry. Advertising revenues, the lifeblood of the industry, continue to fall. They were down by 26% in 2009, 6.4% last year and in the year to date the major groups are reporting a further decline of 10%. This has been attributable to a combination of economic conditions and the migration of advertising to the internet. While digital revenues are growing, they remain a relatively small proportion of total income for most companies. Against this background, you may understand the significant loss of jobs over past few years as our member companies strive to maintain viable businesses. Unfortunately, there is no relief in sight with the Advertising Association's forecasts for 2012 and 2013 showing no growth in revenues for the regional press.

We then discussed the case for retaining Public Information Notices (PINs) in newspapers. You also explained the COSLA representations to allow councils to publish PINs on the tellmeScotland website as an alternative to newspapers. The proposal, in our view, is wholly based on financial savings with little or no regard for the democratic case demonstrated by the unanimous response of independent parties, such as Consumer Focus Scotland and community councils from up and down the land, to the Scottish Government's consultation on the same subject in early 2010. There is no doubt in our minds that if the option were to be allowed the advertising of PINs would disappear from newspapers. The loss would affect readers as well being financially damaging for many of our titles.

It has to be seriously questioned whether tellmeScotland can deliver comparable audiences to newspapers for some time to come. According to Ofcom's Communications Market Report published in August 2011, broadband take-up in Scotland has remained flat year on year since 2009 at 61% of homes - 13 percentage points lower than the UK average. It is also particularly low for the over 55s (where newspaper readership is especially strong): whereas 55% have broadband at home in the UK, in Scotland this figure is 21 percentage points lower, at 34%.

In her Ministerial Foreword to Scotland's Digital Future: A Strategy for Scotland, Fiona Hyslop stated that the Scottish Government's ambition was that the rate of broadband uptake by people in Scotland should be at or above the UK average by 2013, and should be highest among the UK nations by 2015.

Furthermore, Cabinet Secretary John Swinney, in his e-mailed letter to me of 21 September, acknowledged that Councils are already making savings in advertising spend by reduction in advert size and changes in business processes. He went on to say I am encouraged to hear that councils are working with their local newspapers in securing arrangements that are agreeable to all parties in these tough financial conditions. I will seek to provide you with examples.

I trust you will agree that there is a compelling democratic case for PINs remaining in

newspapers at least until such time as a review is appropriate which I suggest should be when the Scottish Government achieves its target on broadband take-up as measured by Ofcom's annual Communications Market Report.

The Society will of course be happy to participate in further discussions as you feel appropriate.

Many thanks again for a constructive meeting.

Best regards,

Jim Raeburn  
Director

Scottish Newspaper Society

Tel:

This email was received from the INTERNET and scanned by the Government Secure Intranet anti-virus service supplied by Cable&Wireless Worldwide in partnership with MessageLabs. (CCTM Certificate Number 2009/09/0052.) In case of problems, please call your organisation's IT Helpdesk.  
Communications via the GSi may be automatically logged, monitored and/or recorded for legal purposes.

\*\*\*\*\*

This email has been received from an external party and has been swept for the presence of computer viruses.

\*\*\*\*\*



# Evening Express

ABERDEEN JOURNALS LTD, PO BOX 43, LANG STRACHT, MASTRICK, ABERDEEN AB15 6DF (REGISTERED OFFICE)  
TELEPHONE: (01224) 690222. TELE ADS 691212. FAX NO: (01224) 694813. EDITORIAL FAX NO: (01224) 699575.  
TELEX NO: 73133. REGISTERED NUMBER 15256 SCOTLAND.

AS61  
MACCS FAST-TRACK  
AS Zeepey  
10 OCT 2011  
FM OFFICE

6 October 2011

Mr Alex Salmond  
First Minister of Scotland  
First Minister's Office  
St Andrew's House  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

10 OCT 2011  
FM OFFICE

M.C.U.  
14 OCT 2011  
Received

Dear Mr Salmond

## ABERDEEN'S CHAMPION

It is with great pleasure that I invite you to one of the most special events of the year, hosted by the Evening Express.

The Aberdeen's Champion awards evening pays tribute to the tremendous achievement of people from all walks of life from across our region.

This wonderful night will see our champions recognised and rewarded for their role in helping to make lives better for others, often quietly and selflessly, with little recognition for their efforts. The Evening Express aims to highlight that good work and give them a large dose of thanks from the whole of the North-east.

This year the awards ceremony will be held on Saturday 12 November, in the Gordon Suite, at the Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre.

All our champions are deserving winners and their stories - published in the Evening Express - have touched the hearts of our readers. All finalists will be recognised on the night and receive a trophy.

The timetable for the evening is:	Arrive for drinks	-	6:30 pm
	Dinner	-	7:00 pm
	Awards	-	8:45 pm

As in previous years, we hope to make this a memorable event for all our champions and I sincerely hope you will be able to attend on the night and lend your support. Please contact Helen Worthington [redacted] by Wednesday 19 October, to confirm if you are able to attend and if you have any special dietary requirements.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature box]

Alan McCabe  
Editor

AS 62

**Rt Hon Alex Salmond MSP**  
First Minister of Scotland

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
T: 0845 774 1741



Donald Martin  
Editor  
The Herald Newspaper  
Newsquest (Herald and Times) Ltd  
200 Renfield Street  
GLASGOW  
G2 3PR

23rd December 2009

Dear Donald

I am writing to you following a meeting I had recently with the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities.

One of the matters we discussed was the content of comments posted on newspaper websites by members of the public when commenting on stories. The facility to post comments on newspaper articles which appear on websites can be used by individuals as a way of expressing views of an offensive or prejudiced nature. It therefore important that as a matter of good practice such comments are quickly removed by the moderator of the website. I was disappointed to be told that this does not happen in every case.

I am therefore writing to you, as editor of a national Scottish newspaper, to ensure that stories which may attract such offensive and prejudiced views, are moderated closely and that comments deemed to be offensive are removed as soon as is practically possible.

I believe that by working together in this way we can achieve the aspiration of One Scotland of many cultures, faiths and beliefs.

*Alex Salmond*



**ALEX SALMOND**

AS63

~~Address from~~  
~~Scott~~

11/1

# Herald Times Group

200 Renfield Street, Glasgow, G2 3QB. Tel: +44 (0)141 302 7000

Info note  
+ copy to  
officials ✓

11/1

FM OFFICE IN 12p10

6 January 2010

Rt Hon Alex Salmond MSP  
First Minister of Scotland  
St Andrew's House  
Regent Road  
EDINBURGH  
EH1 3DG

Dear Alex

I am writing in response to the note you sent me after your meeting with the Scottish Council for Jewish Communities.

In line with most newspapers and established legal practice, we do not pre-moderate the comments sections of our websites. However, we operate an alert system and, where we are informed of offensive or inappropriate comments, we remove them immediately. Further, we are also mindful that certain subject matters are more likely to instigate such responses and we do not attach a comment link to the story on line.

I too share your concern about the nature and tone of some of the comments posted on line and found on websites in general and we can assure you we work hard, within an established legal framework, to ensure we maintain the highest values.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature box]

Donald Martin  
Editor-in-Chief

The  Herald **Evening Times** **sundayherald** 

The Herald & Times Group is a trading name of Newsquest (Herald & Times) Ltd - a Gannett company.  
Registered in Scotland, No SC011138, 200 Renfield Street, Glasgow, G2 3QB



AS64  
MCS DIARY

From the President, Donald Martin, Editor, Sunday Post

27 August 2010

Rt Hon Alex Salmond MSP  
First Minister  
Office of the First Minister  
St. Andrew's House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

C.U. 1  
- 7 SEP 2010

President  
Donald Martin

Executive  
Director  
Bob Satchwell

Board of  
Directors  
Neil Benson  
Simon Bucks  
Richard Castow  
Peter Charlton  
Peter Cole  
Graham Dudman  
Robin Esser  
Paul Horrocks  
Nigel Pickover  
Pat Pilton  
Moira Sleight  
Sarah Jane Smith  
Nick Turner  
Fran Unsworth  
Tony Watson

Past Presidents  
Nigel Pickover  
Simon Bucks  
Paul Horrocks  
Charles McGhee  
Keith Sutton  
Neil Benson  
Jonathan Grun  
Liz Page  
Edmund Curran  
Neil Fowler  
Geoff Elliott

Fellows  
Ben Bradlee  
Geoff Elliott  
Walter Greenwood  
Phil Harding  
Bob Pinker  
Peter Preston  
Richard Tait  
Tom Welsh

Advisory Council  
Kevin Beatty  
Tim Bowdler  
Rebekah Brooks  
Robin Burgess  
Mark Byford  
Carolyn McCall  
Paul Dacre  
Paul Davidson  
Bill Emmott  
Ivan Fallon  
David Fordham  
John Fry  
Philip Graf  
Phil Harding  
Les Hinton  
Adrian Jeakings  
Clive Jones  
Murdoch  
MacLennan  
Chris Oakley  
Michael Pelosi  
Paul Potts  
Richard Tait

**Have we got GOOD news for you - Society of Editors Conference 2010  
Glasgow Sunday 14 to Tuesday 16 November**

Dear First Minister,

As President of the UK Society of Editors and editor of the Sunday Post, I am hoping I can persuade you to join us at the most important annual gathering of editors and senior executives from across the media that will take place in Glasgow on November 14, 15 and 16.

This year's conference is aimed at celebrating the successes of the media and lifting the gloom that has been pressing down on us because of the twin effects of recession and structural change.

As the first DC Thomson editor to host such a prestigious occasion I am particularly proud to bring the event back to Scotland.

We would very much like you to do us the honour of being guest speaker at the black tie annual gala dinner on November 15. While you will no doubt have one or two serious points to make to the national media, we hope that you could also make it a light contribution in no more than ten minutes to suit the celebratory occasion. I do recall your speech at the Newspaper Press Fund lunch being very amusing and well received.

The Society of Editors' conference is a hub of media discussion, strategy and vision that has become one of the major events in the media calendar. The conference will focus on the experience of editors across all sectors of the media, explore best practice and the best ways of winning new audiences and encouraging the revenue that goes with them.

University Centre, Granta Place, Cambridge, CB2 1RU

Telephone: 01223 304080 Fax: 01223 304090 Email: info@societyofeditors.org

www.societyofeditors.org

A company limited by guarantee incorporated in England. Registered No. 304 7323. Vat No. 653 5446 28

# Society of Editors

[www.societyofeditors.org](http://www.societyofeditors.org)

*From the President, Donald Martin, Editor, Sunday Post*

The conference will be based at the Grand Central Hotel at Glasgow. It opens on Sunday 14 November with the Society of Editors Lecture which will be delivered by Alexander Lebedev, owner of the Independent, Independent on Sunday and London Evening Standard.

Monday will be given over to working sessions on numerous topics with time in between to meet faces old and new. The annual gala dinner will follow in the evening. It will be an impressive occasion for hundreds of media guests. The conference will wrap up with the Tuesday morning breakfast seminar and the incoming president's address.

I hope you will consider joining us at Glasgow. I would be delighted if you would put 14-16 November, and the evening of November 15<sup>th</sup> in particular, in your diary. You would be welcome to attend for any or all of the conference.

Obviously I would be grateful for an early and positive response.

Yours sincerely

Donald Martin  
President  
Editor, Sunday Post

[dmartin@](mailto:dmartin@)

**University Centre, Granta Place, Cambridge, CB2 1RU**

Telephone: 01223 304080 Fax: 01223 304090 Email: [info@societyofeditors.org](mailto:info@societyofeditors.org)

[www.societyofeditors.org](http://www.societyofeditors.org)

A company limited by guarantee incorporated in England. Registered No. 304 7323. Vat No. 653 5446 28

AS65



From the President, Donald Martin, Editor, Sunday Post

FM OFFICE

13 October 2010

Rt Hon Alex Salmond MSP  
First Minister  
Office of the First Minister  
St. Andrew's House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

- President**  
Donald Martin
- Executive Director**  
Bob Satchwell
- Board of Directors**  
Neil Benson  
Simon Bucks  
Richard Catlow  
Peter Charlton  
Peter Cole  
Graham Dudman  
Robin Esser  
Paul Horrocks  
Nigel Pickover  
Pat Pilton  
Moira Sleight  
Sarah Jane Smith  
Nick Turner  
Fran Unsworth  
Tony Watson
- Past Presidents**  
Nigel Pickover  
Simon Bucks  
Paul Horrocks  
Charles McGhee  
Keith Sutton  
Neil Benson  
Jonathan Grun  
Liz Page  
Edmund Curran  
Neil Fowler  
Geoff Elliott
- Fellows**  
Ben Bradlee  
Geoff Elliott  
Walter Greenwood  
Phil Harding  
Bob Pinker  
Peter Preston  
Richard Tait  
Tom Welsh
- Advisory Council**  
Kevin Beatty  
Tim Bowdler  
Rebekah Brooks  
Robin Burgess  
Mark Byford  
Carolyn McCall  
Paul Dacre  
Paul Davidson  
Bill Emmott  
Ivan Fallon  
David Fordham  
John Fry  
Philip Graf  
Phil Harding  
Les Hinton  
Adrian Jeakings  
Clive Jones  
Murdoch  
MacLennan  
Chris Oakley  
Michael Peios  
Paul Potts  
Richard Tait

**Have we got GOOD news for you - Society of Editors Conference 2010  
Glasgow Sunday 14 to Tuesday 16 November**

Further to our previous correspondence of 13 October, we have not received a reply to our invitation to speak at our annual dinner on the evening of November 15.

I assume this may be because of difficulties in your diary for that evening but I am sure you will appreciate that we have now had to finalise our programme.

However, we do still have space during the late morning of Monday November 15 if you would be able to provide a keynote speech of about 20 minutes plus questions.

As you are aware the conference is the most important annual gathering of editors and senior executives from across the media.

This year's conference is aimed at celebrating the successes of the media and lifting the gloom that has been pressing down on us because of the twin effects of recession and structural change.

The Society of Editors' conference is a hub of media discussion, strategy and vision that has become one of the major events in the media calendar. The conference will focus on the experience of editors across all sectors of the media, explore best practice and the best ways of winning new audiences and encouraging the revenue that goes with them.

The conference will be based at the Grand Central Hotel at Glasgow. It opens on Sunday 14 November with the Society of Editors Lecture which will be delivered by Alexander Lebedev, owner of the Independent, Independent on Sunday and London Evening Standard.

University Centre, Granta Place, Cambridge, CB2 1RU  
Telephone: 01223 304080 Fax: 01223 304090 Email: info@societyofeditors.org  
www.societyofeditors.org  
A company limited by guarantee incorporated in England. Registered No. 304 7323. Vat No. 653 5446 28



**Society of Editors**  
www.societyofeditors.org

*From the President, Donald Martin, Editor, Sunday Post*

Monday will be given over to working sessions on numerous topics. The annual gala dinner will follow in the evening. It will be an impressive occasion for hundreds of media guests. The conference will wrap up with the Tuesday morning breakfast seminar and the incoming president's address.

I hope you will consider joining us at Glasgow and I would be grateful for an early and positive response.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature box]

Donald Martin  
President  
Editor, Sunday Post

dmartin@ [Redacted email address]

Tel: [Redacted telephone number]

# The Herald

200 Renfield Street, Glasgow, G2 3QB  
Tel 0141 302 7000 Fax 0141 302 7007  
www.theherald.co.uk

AS66  
NCU  
(GA) - FM response  
11/11

7 November 2008

C.U. received  
12 NOV 2008

Rt Hon Alex Salmond MSP  
First Minister  
St Andrews House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh EH 1 3DG

FM OFFICE

Dear First Minister

I am writing to you in my capacity as a senior newspaper editor in Scotland and a Board member of the UK Society of Editors to express my concern with regard to the BBC's plans to establish local news video websites. I would ask you to consider the potential damaging effect these will have on the viability of many regional and local newspapers and to join with the newspaper industry in opposing the further expansion of the BBC into an area in which it currently has no remit.

As you may be aware, the BBC plans to spend £68 million setting up a network of 65 local news video sites throughout the UK. In effect we believe these will represent the equivalent of 65 local online newspapers and the BBC plans to use public money (the licence fee) to duplicate the local news and information services already provided online by regional and local newspapers. The industry has already made representations to the BBC Trust and Ofcom under the auspices of the Newspaper Society and the Scottish Daily Newspaper Society. This week, the Newspaper Society has also legally challenged the independence of the BBC Trust in its role in assessing the validity of the BBC's local video expansion plans. We would also ask you to question whether such a process is a truly independent one.

We believe there is no justification for what is in effect a state-funded intervention into the regional and local media market. The BBC's proposals offer nothing distinctive by way of content or regionality and each of the BBC areas concerned is already served by numerous local media websites. The impact of such intervention into this market by the BBC would, we believe, be hugely damaging to the regional and local newspaper industry as a whole and to the communities they serve.

Many/..

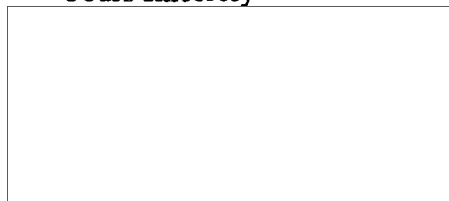
-2-

Many of these newspapers are already facing enormous commercial challenges from the development of the internet, declining readership, and the migration of traditional newspaper advertising platforms, such as recruitment, property and motors, to specialist online websites. Most, if not all, newspaper companies are in the process of downsizing and restructuring their operations to meet the digital challenges of our rapidly-changing market and the digital investment by these newspapers, my own included, is aimed at growing online audiences and advertising revenues. We believe, however, that the BBC's intervention into this field will cause market distortion and discourage our ongoing innovation and investment.

In many instances the BBC's local online plans could threaten the very existence of some regional and local newspapers which have long been a vital part of their community, in some cases for centuries. My own newspaper, The Herald, has just celebrated its 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary serving the people of Glasgow and informing the people of Scotland as a whole in its role as an influential quality national newspaper. The paper's position is seen as vital to the vibrant, devolved democracy we now have in Scotland, but like our colleagues in the local and regional press, we now face state-funded competition in the form of the BBC using its muscle to dominate our local online offerings.

I would be grateful if you could give this matter your urgent attention and make whatever representations you feel are appropriate to both the BBC Trust and Ofcom if you share our view that the BBC should not be permitted to do online what it has agreed would be unacceptable to do on paper (ie as a newspaper), and that additional licence fee-payers' money should not be used to stifle the enterprise of those who are already offering excellent local online services to the public.

Yours sincerely



Charles McConnel  
Editor

UNIT 11001

cc

Paul Aeghan

J29/5



AS67

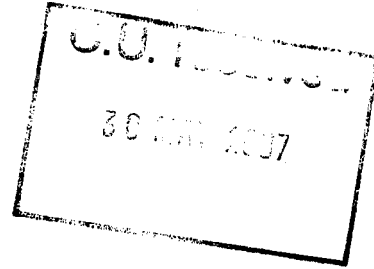
200 Renfield Street  
Glasgow  
G2 3QB  
Telephone: 0141 302 7000

23 May 2007

Alex Salmond MSP  
First Minister  
Bute House  
6 Charlotte Square  
EDINBURGH  
EH2 4DR



Date Received  
24 MAY 2007



Dear Alex

Many congratulations on your appointment as First Minister of Scotland.

I hope that the inevitable coalition does not severely impede your abilities to build a better future.

I was particularly pleased to see Bashir Ahmad elected. I think he is an excellent ambassador for Glasgow and the city's ethnic community and will be a great asset to your party.

I realise you will have many people trying to bend your ear just now but perhaps we could meet sometime in the future to discuss the Scottish media? I guess you will have moved beyond a curry in the Southside.

Best wishes

Yours sincerely



Tim Blott  
Managing Director

**Birrell M (Michael)**

---

**From:** Tim Blott [Tim.Blott@  
**Sent:** 23 May 2011 11:02  
**To:** First Minister  
**Subject:** thank you  
**Follow Up Flag:** I flagged to TK and KW. Check with TK that no further action is required. Log+Obj - MB 24/5  
**Flag Status:** Orange  
**Attachments:** ATT796423.txt

Dear Alex

I greatly appreciate your support for the Sunday Herald today in the ridiculous row over super injunctions.

Kind regards

Tim Blott  
Managing Director  
Herald & Times

This email was received from the INTERNET and scanned by the Government Secure Intranet anti-virus service supplied by Cable&Wireless Worldwide in partnership with MessageLabs. (CCTM Certificate Number 2009/09/0052.) In case of problems, please call your organisation's IT Helpdesk. Communications via the GSI may be automatically logged, monitored and/or recorded for legal purposes.

\*\*\*\*\*

This email has been received from an external party and has been swept for the presence of computer viruses.

\*\*\*\*\*

*in private* AS69

**telegraphmediagroup**

111 Buckingham Palace Road, London, SW1W 0DT  
www.telegraph.co.uk

Direct line:   
Email: murdoch.maclennan@

From the office of the Chief Executive

March 16, 2011

17 MAR 2011

FM 04:00

Rt Hon Alex Salmond MSP  
First Minister  
St. Andrews House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

*Dear Alex,*

I just wanted to say how very good it was to catch up over lunch at the end of last week. Thank you so much for your time and, as always, for your insight and candour.

I know that the next few months will be exceptionally busy for you, but I did want to extend an open invitation to visit us in London when next you have time in your schedule. It would be good to see you here, and I'd make sure you had an interesting visit.

Do please keep in touch and always let me know if there is anything you would like to discuss. And I am sure Alan will keep me closely posted with developments.

*As ever,*

AS70



Jeremy Darroch  
Chief Executive

\*\*\*\*\*  
FM OFFICE

Rt Hon Alex Salmond MSP  
First Minister of Scotland  
St Andrew's House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

17 March 2009

Dear First Minister

Rupert passed me a copy of your recent letter regarding the Pageant on the 25 July. It sounds like an exciting and unique event.

The breadth and sheer scale of the planned Pageant is most impressive. An excellent demonstration of the traditions, culture and history still so proudly embedded in modern Scottish life. I am positive it will be a tremendous success.

While such an event is not a natural fit for our entertainment channels I am sure it will be a significant aspect of the news agenda that weekend. We will feature it on Sky News, across TV, online and radio, where the images and commentary will be given full exposure across our UK and international audiences.

It is also something that I'm sure our own people will be excited about. As you know, we are one of Scotland's largest private sector employers, with over 6,000 employees across our three main sites. Scotland remains the backbone of our service operation with a diverse workforce in customer service, finance and project management. Over the years we've expanded significantly - opening the new site in Uddingston two years ago - and I am delighted that even in these challenging times we are still hiring at all levels.

Scotland is also an incredibly important market for our business. We have many customers in Scotland, and Sky remains the only digital television platform available in some parts of the country. We also have a long standing commitment to Scottish sport, and have covered the national football team's international games since 1991 (a World Cup qualifier 4-0 victory over San Marino).

XI

I would welcome an opportunity to meet in the coming months and to discuss our many common interests.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature box]

Cc: Rupert Murdoch

AS71

**Rt Hon Alex Salmond MSP**  
First Minister of Scotland

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
T: 0845 774 1741



John McLellan  
Editor  
The Scotsman Newspaper  
The Scotsman Publications Ltd  
Barclay House  
108 Holyrood Road  
EDINBURGH  
EH8 8AS

23rd December 2009

Dear John

I am writing to you following a meeting I had recently with the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities.

One of the matters we discussed was the content of comments posted on newspaper websites by members of the public when commenting on stories. The facility to post comments on newspaper articles which appear on websites can be used by individuals as a way of expressing views of an offensive or prejudiced nature. It therefore important that as a matter of good practice such comments are quickly removed by the moderator of the website. I was disappointed to be told that this does not happen in every case.

I am therefore writing to you, as editor of a national Scottish newspaper, to ensure that stories which may attract such offensive and prejudiced views, are moderated closely and that comments deemed to be offensive are removed as soon as is practically possible.

I believe that by working together in this way we can achieve the aspiration of One Scotland of many cultures, faiths and beliefs.

*Alex Salmond*

**ALEX SALMOND**





Karen (Dore) to advise ~~8/1~~

AS72

**THE SCOTSMAN**  
SCOTLAND'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER

JMcL/SM

FM OFFICE  
8 JAN 2010

6 January 2010

Rt Hon Alex Salmond MSP  
First Minister of Scotland  
St Andrew's House  
Regent Road  
EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

Dear Alex

Thank you for your letter regarding online commentary. I am delighted that the issue of abuse of comment streams by extremists is one which you take seriously. I have a reporter here who has been subjected to some particularly virulent abuse and indeed threats on our website and I am sure you would agree it is a pity that what is a very valuable way for the public to have their say on current affairs can be hijacked by zealots.

I presume that the matter raised by the SCJC relates to an incident nearly two years ago when some highly offensive comments were posted on a story relating to Gaza and which was the subject of a complaint to the police. On that occasion, the entire comment stream, not just the offending comments, was taken down within an hour of the story appearing, which by any stretch of the imagination was a prompt and proportionate response. Nevertheless, the procurator fiscal saw fit to issue a warning as to our future conduct, something about which the industry as a whole is very concerned and is the subject of current discussions with the Lord Advocate's office.

In fact, we no longer accept comment on any stories relating to the Palestine situation, something which is regrettable but has sadly proved to be the only way to prevent extremists abusing the system.

Equally unfortunate is that the Procurator Fiscal's warning implies that even taking a comment stream down within an hour is not sufficient to avoid the threat of criminal prosecution. This flies in the face of best legal advice which is that pre-moderation must be avoided in order to prevent defamation actions for potentially actionable comments.

We are well aware of our responsibilities to ensure comment streams are not abused but it seems that even conforming to accepted best practice is not enough in Scotland and I'm sure you would agree that it would be a great pity if the threat of criminal action forced responsible newspaper publishers like ourselves to shut down what is a valuable platform for genuinely broad public debates.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature box]

**JOHN McLELLAN**  
EDITOR

Edinburgh: 108 Holyrood Road, Edinburgh EH8 8AS Tel: 0131 620 8620  
Glasgow: 80 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5UB Tel: 0141 236 6400  
London: Dolphyn Court, 10-11 Great Turnstile, London WC1V 7JU

Published by The Scotsman Publications Limited. Registered Number 20911 Scotland  
Registered Office: 53 Manor Place, Edinburgh, EH3 7EG

For the latest information on all of our products log on to [www.media.scotsman.com](http://www.media.scotsman.com)

AS73

**Rt Hon Alex Salmond MSP**  
First Minister of Scotland

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
T: 0845 774 1741



John McLellan  
Editor  
Scotsman  
108 Holyrood Road  
Edinburgh  
EH8 8AS

09 February 2011

Dear John,

I have recently been interviewed by Andrew Collier for your newspaper's supplement 'Energy Ecosse'.

One of the reasons I agreed to the interview was to use the opportunity to put the record straight in relation to *The Scotsman's* completely erroneous front page story on December 27 – which claimed that Scotland had been forced to rely on nuclear power from France during the recent cold weather.

Despite the headline and opening line making claims about Scotland's electricity supply, the article appears entirely reliant on UK-wide data and information on electricity flow between France and England.

We now have final data from National Grid, providing information on interconnector flows between Scotland and England, not only for the two days that were the focus of the article, but for the period from November 1 to December 28 – when the cold winter weather was at its most hostile.

During that period 97% of the flow of electricity was in a southerly direction, helping keep our neighbours' lights on as well as our own.

Further, on each of the two days cited in *The Scotsman* article, Scotland was a net exporter. In fact, on one of those days, December 20, no electricity flowed north, while 31,058 MWh was sent south from Scotland – enough to power around 2.5 million English homes that day. On December 21, Scotland's net electricity export to England was 9,603 MWh.

Clearly the interconnector provides a two-way flow. Indeed in an integrated market it is essential to allow for two-way flow to allow trading to take place on a market basis, ensuring

the most economically efficient dispatch of electricity to minimise costs to consumers, as well as to strengthen security of supply.

However, Scotland has been a very substantial net exporter of electricity for many years and has continued to be so even during the harsh winter – a point which your correspondent singularly failed to realise in writing the article. We are also a net exporter of electricity to Northern Ireland through the Moyle interconnector.

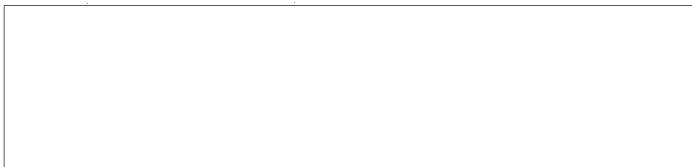
Increasing interconnectivity will be an important feature of a secure, diverse energy market in the years ahead, which is why just last week I announced SSE's proposals for an interconnector with Norway.

As we work towards our renewable energy targets, to support the continued growth of our emerging low carbon energy industry – a sector that can benefit communities right across Scotland – it is vital that readers of *The Scotsman* and [scotsman.com](http://scotsman.com) are aware of the realities of domestic electricity generation and consumption today and the extraordinary opportunity that our country is on the cusp of bringing to fruition.

I have asked Colin Imrie, the Scottish Government's Head of Energy and International Low Carbon, to make himself available to provide your correspondent with a briefing on Scotland's energy sector, how it sits today and where we intend it to be in the years and decades ahead, and to answer any questions she may have.

And rather than just moan about what I see as a number of clear misrepresentations of the Scottish Government position (including today's totally misleading editorial), perhaps you and I could have a coffee to see if we can put our relationship on a sounder footing.

Yours for Scotland,



**ALEX SALMOND**

AS74

BBC Trust  
180 Great Portland Street  
London W1W 5QZ

bbc.co.uk/bbctrust

BBC Trust

From the Chairman

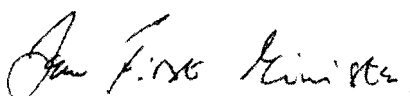
2102

7 9 FEB 12

FM OFF 1

Rt Hon Alex Salmond MSP  
First Minister  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

22 February 2012



Thank you for a positive meeting on 9 February, which Bill Matthews and I found very useful. I thought it might be helpful to sum up the outcomes as seen from our perspective.

We noted your comments regarding Radio Scotland, the resourcing of journalism at BBC Scotland, and the point made by Ms Hyslop about critical mass. The Trust is still considering its final conclusions on Delivering Quality First (DQF). I can assure you that we are determined to ensure that the BBC continues to deliver all its public purposes, including impartial and independent journalism, for licence payers in Scotland and across the UK even within a tighter licence fee settlement. You said that you were planning to make a submission on the resourcing of news in Scotland further to our DQF consultation, and it will be helpful to have that as soon as possible.

We noted also your concerns about the language used in reporting, and about some specific issues relating to Calcutta Cup programming on 4 February. As I explained, any complaint is a matter for the Executive in the first instance and the Trust cannot comment now. I understand you may make contact with the Director-General formally on these issues.

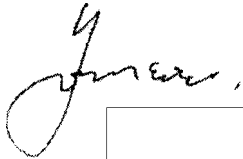

Discussion turned to the elections and referendum. It is the BBC's usual practice before any election to take soundings from all parties before setting out the approach it intends on all detailed matters of election plans; and the same applies to referendums. The Executive have agreed that they will be in touch to arrange discussions with political parties.

Cont'd/...2

-2-

They will also write to political parties to explain the current editorial guidelines in place and their application in this pre-election period and how complaints may be lodged; how and when Election Guidelines and Referendum Guidelines are put in place, including how they are subject to consultation; and the staff training they intend to put in place now and over the next two years regarding the approach to coverage on the forthcoming referendum.

I hope you will find this reassuring and helpful.

Lord Patten of Barnes CH  
Chairman, BBC Trust

Handwritten notes: 24/11, 13/12, AS75

# Herald Times Group

200 Renfield Street, Glasgow, G2 3QB. Tel: +44 (0)141 302 7000

18 November 2011

21 NOV 2011  
F M O F I C E

Rt Hon Alex Salmond MSP  
First Minister of Scotland  
Office of the First Minister  
St Andrews House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

Dear Alex

Just a note to thank you for your help with Joe Quinn's Lifetime Achievement award at the Scottish Politician of the Year Awards.

I know how much it meant to Joe and his wife, Maggie, for him to have been honoured in this way. It was also a hugely popular award with everyone who knew him.

I realise how busy you are so thanks for taking the time to attend this year's ceremony, which I thought was a great night.

Best wishes and congratulations again on your own award.



Jonathan Russell  
Editor (The Herald)  
Editor-in-Chief (Herald & Times)

The Herald

Evening Times

sundayherald

s1

The Herald & Times Group is a trading name of Newsquest (Herald & Times) Ltd - a Gannett company.  
Registered in Scotland, No SC011138, 200 Renfield Street, Glasgow, G2 3QB

MOD300014097

A576

# Herald Times Group

200 Renfield Street, Glasgow, G2 3QB. Tel: +44 (0)141 302 7000

JR/lm

9 May 2011

Alex Salmond, First Minister  
Office of the First Minister  
St. Andrew's House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

JR

16 MAY 2011

F M O F I C E

Dear Alex

Please allow me to add my congratulations on your achievements at last week's Scottish elections.

Even viewing it as a neutral, this was clearly an historic moment in Scotland's history. You have every right to feel proud of what you and your team have achieved.

However, you don't need me to tell you that the hard work is only just beginning for you! The next five years will bring many challenges and I'm sure that at this stage we're probably only aware of a small number of them.

I look forward to seeing how you and your team tackle these challenges and hope The Herald can in some way play a part in improving Scotland and the lives of Scots in the way we support SNP policy where appropriate, and offer (hopefully!) constructive criticism where we do not see eye to eye.

Once again, congratulations to you and your team and I look forward to the next five years with great interest.

Best wishes



Jonathan Russell  
Editor-in-Chief

The Herald

Evening Times

sundayherald

s1

AS77

**Rt Hon Alex Salmond MSP**  
First Minister of Scotland

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
T: 0845 774 1741



Jonathan Russell  
Editor-in-Chief  
Herald Times Group  
200 Renfield Street  
Glasgow  
G2 3QB

19h May 2011

Dear Jonathan

I wanted to thank you personally for your recent letter and kind words of support.

I am delighted to return to the office of First Minister and to have the opportunity to serve Scotland for another five years. The people of Scotland have placed their trust in me and my ministerial team, and together we will work hard to deliver the ambitions and aspirations of our nation.

*Alex Salmond*

ALEX SALMOND



AS78

Rt Hon Alex Salmond MSP  
First Minister of Scotland

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
T: 0845 774 1741



Alan Scott  
Aberdeen Journals Ltd  
PO Box 43  
Lang Stracht  
Aberdeen  
AB15 6DF

January 2010

Dear *Alan*

Thank you for inviting me to the Perth Races on 23 April. Although Moira and I would have enjoyed a fantastic day at the races, I regret that my ministerial diary commitments will prevent me.

Thank you again for your kind offer and please do keep my office informed about future meetings. You never know, we might get to Perth yet.

*Alex Salmond*



ALEX SALMOND

AS79

**Rt Hon Alex Salmond MSP**  
First Minister of Scotland

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
T: 0845 774 1741



PRIVATE

Andrew Thomson  
Chairman  
DC Thomson  
2 Albert Square  
Dundee  
DD1 9QR

28 June 2010

Dear Andrew

You will recall that when we spoke on the phone I mentioned the Midweek article that appeared in the Courier on 5 May, the day before the General Election. I now enclose an analysis of its many serious mistakes and distortions.

I usually shrug my shoulders at these things, but this stands out as perhaps the worst and most personalised attack I have ever experienced, and certainly far worse than anything that even the Daily Mail has written about me. The article's timing, so close to the General Election, compounds the inappropriate nature of its contents and the glaring factual errors.

I would also like to draw your attention to an editorial in the Press & Journal of 17 June, which referred to "Alex Salmond and Co's anti-England" stance. I do not have an anti-England bone in my body – quite the reverse – and it is offensive to suggest otherwise, particularly in such frivolous terms. The stance of the SNP and the Scottish Government is pro-Scotland and 'anti' no-one.

*Y of Scotland*



**ALEX SALMOND**

**MIDWEEK ARTICLE BY JOHN J. MARSHALL, COURIER, 5 MAY 2010**

**1. THE CLAIM THAT MR SALMOND DID NOT VOTE IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS "IN THE LAST 9 MONTHS OF ITS LIFE"**

In fact, Mr Salmond took part in several votes on the Budget on 30 March, including on SNP proposals to stop fuel duty increases, as indeed you acknowledged in the correction published in the Courier on 6 May.

And over the full 5-year term of the last Westminster Parliament, the enclosed analysis shows that Mr Salmond was in the top ten in the table of Scottish MPs' activity in the Commons – in terms of speeches in the chamber, written and oral questions, and tabling motions.

**2. THE CLAIM THAT MR SALMOND WAS "CONTEMPTUOUS" OF HIS BANFF & BUCHAN CONSTITUENTS BY NOT RESIGNING HIS SEAT.**

This demonstrates a complete lack of knowledge of the issue. In fact, Mr Salmond stood on a specific pledge in the 2005 Westminster General Election that he would serve a full term as the MP for Banff & Buchan, and was also clear that he was seeking election to the Scottish Parliament in 2007 and running to be First Minister. On this basis, Mr Salmond secured 51.2 per cent of the vote, and he delivered his promises to the people of Banff & Buchan in full and to the letter.

**3. THE CLAIM THAT INDEPENDENCE SEEMS TO HAVE BECOME A "FORBIDDEN WORD"**

Again, Mr Marshall has not been following basic developments. In fact, Mr Salmond published a draft Referendum Bill in February containing questions on both independence for Scotland and additional powers for the Parliament. The draft Bill was issued for national consultation, and the Scottish Government will be publishing a final Bill in due course.

**4. THE CLAIM THAT THE COST OF THE RESCUE OF SCOTLAND'S TWO MAIN BANKS WAS £470 BILLION**

In fact, the March 2010 Budget (Box C4, page 213) estimated that the net final cost of the bank bailout UK-wide would be £6 billion. And the Chancellor announced "we intend to get all taxpayers' money back" – Budget (24<sup>th</sup> March 2010). And in the new UK Government's Emergency Budget on 22 June, Box B1 of the Budget states: "Using the latest market prices, the cost of the financial sector interventions, net of fees and other income, is estimated at £2 billion."

These figures are based on the current market value of the Government's shareholdings, the expected net benefit from the Asset Protection Scheme (APS) (which is not expected to realise any losses), and the expectation that the aggregate costs of all other interventions would not be material.

Nations both large and small coped during what was an international banking crisis. All Mr Marshall did was regurgitate the misleading spin of the SNP's political opponents.

I should also point out that the Government Expenditure Revenue Scotland (GERS) report published on 23 June showed Scotland in a far stronger budget position than the UK as a whole, including factoring in the full cost of the financial sector interventions to support the banking sector.

The reports show that Scotland's financial position in 2008/09 was a current budget surplus of £1.3 billion, or 0.9% of GDP, including a geographical share of North Sea revenues. At the same time, the UK was in current budget deficit of £48.9 billion, or 3.4% of GDP, including 100% of North Sea revenues.

GERS also estimates Scotland's net fiscal balance – which factors in capital and infrastructure investment for the nation's long term benefit. On this measure Scotland had a deficit of £3.8 billion or 2.6 per cent of GDP. In comparison, the UK's deficit was substantially greater, standing at £96.1 billion or 6.7 per cent of GDP.

Across the OECD as a whole, the average net fiscal balance was 3.3 per cent of GDP in 2008. In other words, GERS shows Scotland in a stronger fiscal position than the average of the major developed economies, as well as the United Kingdom.

#### 5. THE QUERY ABOUT HOW SCOTLAND WOULD PAY OUR SHARE OF THE £1 TRILLION DEBT THAT HAS ACCRUED IN THE UK'S "ECONOMIC MELTDOWN"

An obvious point is that North Sea oil and gas resources in Scottish waters represent an asset that is worth over a trillion pounds – the largest capital asset in the UK. Therefore, with independence Scotland would inherit an asset that is worth some ten times our share of the UK debt. By contrast, this asset is merely equivalent to the national debt at UK level. In terms of the ratio of assets to debt, therefore, an independent Scotland would be in a far better position than the UK.

#### 6. THE CRITICISM OF MR SALMOND'S POINT DURING THE BBC TV DEBATE THAT IN HIS OPINION THE DUNBLANE MASS MURDERER THOMAS HAMILTON WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN SUITABLE FOR COMPASSIONATE RELEASE HAD HE LIVED AND CONTRACTED A TERMINAL ILLNESS

In fact, the point is an obvious one, and was discussed in detail by Mr Salmond at First Minister's Questions on 29 April – the week before the article appeared in the Courier. Again, therefore, Mr Marshall has failed to inform himself of the substance of the issues.

The hypothetical case of Thomas Hamilton would not have passed the first principle in the Scottish Prison Service's guidance for the release of prisoners on compassionate grounds. The first criterion for the Scottish Prison Service, whose recommendation must be made before a Minister can even consider compassionate release, is that: "The release of the prisoner will not create a risk of re-offending or put the safety of the public at risk."

Whatever may be said about Mr al-Megrahi's release, nobody seriously believes that it put the safety of the Scottish public at risk. From what we know of Hamilton, who murdered 16 children and a teacher in Dunblane, it would have been impossible for anyone to judge that he would not be at risk of reoffending or would not have put the safety of the Scottish public at risk.

#### 7. THE CRITICISM THAT SCOTTISH MINISTERS "RECENTLY DOUBLED THE AMOUNT OF AID TO MALAWI"

Another factual inaccuracy by Mr Marshall. In fact, the Scottish Government announced in August 2007 that our overall International Development Fund would double over the course of the Parliament to £9 million in 2010/11, and that the amount specifically ring-fenced for Malawi would continue to be MAINTAINED at a minimum of £3 million per year, not doubled. We also fund anti-poverty projects in South Asia, for example.

In terms of aid to Malawi, Scottish development funding goes directly to Scottish-based organisations making a difference on the ground – not a penny goes to Malawian government agencies – and it helps to address poverty-related issues such as death in childbirth, child malnutrition, food security and access to basic education.

#### 8. THE CRITICISM OF MR SALMOND'S WESTMINSTER EXPENSE CLAIMS

Mr Marshall fails to mention that Mr Salmond was the only political leader in Great Britain who was given a completely clean bill of health over his Westminster expenses by Thomas Legg, and therefore was not asked to repay anything by Sir Thomas. In terms of a separate complaint to the Westminster Commissioner for Standards, John Lyon, regarding a £400 food claim in April 2007, the matter was investigated in full by the Standards Commissioner and found completely in Mr Salmond's favour – Mr Marshall also did not mention this.

#### 9. THE REFERENCE TO MR SALMOND'S RESETTLEMENT GRANT AFTER 23 YEARS AS A WESTMINSTER MP

The article did not mention that Mr Salmond donated his gross Holyrood salary to a charitable trust to support youth and community groups in the North East of Scotland – the first parliamentarian ever to do so, resulting in over £50,000 of support to the Trust, benefiting over 70 local groups. Mr Salmond has said that he will make a further substantial, five-figure donation to the Trust, and again he is the only parliamentarian to take such an initiative – Mr Marshall entirely failed to mention other senior members who were leaving the Commons and receiving a resettlement grant, none of whom are proposing to make such a charitable contribution.

Mr Salmond also continues to take a pay freeze for both his ministerial and parliamentary salary, for the second year in a row. Therefore, Mr Salmond's total salary is £135,605 – which is £5,242 less than his full salary entitlement for this year.

10. THE ATTACK ON SNP MPs IN GENERAL FOR BEING "PART-TIMERS SINCE PARTY POLICY INSTRUCTS THAT THEY NOT VOTE ON MATTERS THAT HAVE BEEN DEVOLVED TO THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT"

In fact, and by definition, no-one at Westminster votes on issues devolved to the Scottish Parliament – because they have been devolved to the Scottish Parliament.

Mr Marshall may be referring to the principled stance of the SNP in refraining from voting on exclusively English domestic matters, where there is no Scottish interest at stake – which obviously accounts for the lower percentage of divisions that SNP parliamentarians take part in. Nonetheless, the enclosed participation table shows that all six SNP MPs are in the top ten among Scottish MPs.

Other parliamentarians – including Tam Dalyell when he was in the House – took exactly the same stance. As you will know, criticism of Scottish MPs voting on English affairs was termed the "West Lothian Question" after Tam's sturdy advocacy of the issue, and the new Conservative/Lib Dem government at Westminster have announced that they intend to establish a commission specifically to consider the issue.

I am at a loss as to why Mr Marshall should regard the SNP's principled position as a point of criticism, other than as part of a gratuitous and factually inaccurate attack on Mr Salmond and the SNP more generally.

25 June 2010

## Westminster Contributions by Scottish MPs

Constituency	Rank	MP	Party	WPQ	OPQ	CH	EDM	TOTAL
Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey	1	Danny Alexander	LD	1744	122	299	25	2190
Angus	2	Mike Weir	SNP	1636	87	347	55	2125
Orkney & Shetland	3	Alistair Carmichael	LD	1053	210	477	40	1780
Moray	4	Angus Robertson	SNP	1009	68	212	24	1313
Dundee East	5	Stewart Hosie	SNP	775	45	451	26	1297
Na h-Eileanan an Iar	6	Angus MacNeil	SNP	735	58	403	90	1286
Perth and North Perthshire	7	Pete Wishart	SNP	686	75	333	50	1144
Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk	8	Michael Moore	LD	928	55	109	22	1114
Dunfermline and West Fife	9	Wille Rennie	LD	546	65	145	28	784
Banff & Buchan	10	Alex Salmond	SNP	455	24	212	23	714
Edinburgh North & Leith	11	Mark Lazarowicz	LAB	242	83	339	27	691
Glasgow North West	12	John Robertson	LAB	233	277	163	16	689
Gordon	13	Malcolm Bruce	LD	370	85	157	23	635
Ochil and South Perthshire	14	Gordon Banks	LAB	387	113	114	18	632
East Dunbartonshire	15	Jo Swinson	LD	107	191	277	43	618
Paisley & Renfrewshire North	16	Jim Sheridan	LAB	89	279	201	33	602
Livingston	17	Jim Devine	LAB	81	282	216	21	600
North East Fife	18	Menzies Campbell	LD	272	124	175	26	597
Glasgow East (since Oct 6th 2008)	19	John Mason	SNP	404	26	115	27	572
Edinburgh West	20	John Barrett	LD	241	99	173	45	558
Glasgow South West	21	Ian Davidson	LAB	223	58	254	11	546
Dundee West	22	Jim McGovern	LAB	175	200	97	14	486
West Aberdeenshire & Kincardine	23	Robert Smith	LD	62	100	314	7	483
Linlithgow and East Falkirk	24	Michael Connarty	LAB	63	85	297	24	469
North Ayrshire and Arran	25	Katy Clark	LAB	168	83	110	49	430
Midlothian	26	David Hamilton	LAB	201	90	119	12	422
Coatbridge, Chryston and Bellshill	27	Tom Clarke	LAB	109	102	172	13	396
Argyll & Bute	28	Alan Reid	LD	116	55	207	4	382
Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale	29	David Mundell	CON	132	78	122	17	349
Aberdeen South	30	Anne Begg	LAB	67	132	128	14	341
Dumfries and Galloway	31	Russell Brown	LAB	48	70	212	10	340
East Lothian	32	Anne Moffat	LAB	145	95	63	5	308
Central Ayrshire	33	Brian Donohoe	LAB	120	67	100	10	297
West Dunbartonshire	34	John McFall	LAB	15	64	186	2	267
Caithness, Suth	35	John Thurso	LD	98	26	125	5	254
Glasgow Central	36	Mohammed Sarwar	LAB	158	30	38	9	235
Ross, Skye & Lochaber	37	Charles Kennedy	LD	68	57	58	11	192
Falkirk	38	Eric Joyce	LAB	33	45	101	7	186
Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock	39	Sandra Osborne	LAB	35	39	105	6	185
Edinburgh East	40	Gavin Strang	LAB	32	30	118	1	181
Lanark and Hamilton East	41	Jim Hood	LAB	99	12	59	4	174
Glenrothes (Since Nov 10th 2008)	42	Lindsay Roy	LAB	79	35	8	2	124
Aberdeen North	43	Frank Doran	LAB	36	13	36	3	88
Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch East	44	Rosemary McKenna	LAB	5	29	37	0	71

WPQ = Written Parliamentary Questions  
 OPQ = Oral Parliamentary Questions  
 CH = Chamber Contributions  
 EDM = Early Day Motions  
 Excluding Ministers, Whips and Willie Bain  
 (incumbent in Glasgow North East, elected in  
 Nov 09)